

Message Text

SECRET

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10

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 OMB-01 SP-02 EB-07 NSC-05

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:GCB

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN

USDA/FAS:RSHEGAGUE

AID/FFP:AMERCKER

OMB:CLANCASTER

NEA:ALATHERTON (DRAFT)

----- 106220

R 281438Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T STATE 045280

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT:PL-480 TITLE I WHEAT

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

1. BECAUSE OF LIMITS SET FOR PL-480 WHEAT AVAILABILITY AND URGENT REQUIREMENT ELSEWHERE, WE WILL HAVE TO SLIP THE ADDITIONAL 25,000 TONS OF WHEAT FOR SARG DISCUSSED DURING SECRETARY'S FEBRUARY 13 MEETING WITH ASAD TO FY 76; WE WILL HOWEVER, BE ABLE TO GO AHEAD DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR WITH AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY SYRIA AN ADDITIONAL 10,000 TONS OF RICE (FOR TOTAL OF 35,000 TONS IN FY 1975). ASSUMING SYRIA CONTINUES TO HAVE NEED FOR PL-480 WHEAT, WE HOPE TO BE IN POSITION TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH SARG FOR 25,000 TONS OF WHEAT EARLY IN FY 1976.

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2. REALIZE THIS MAY CAUSE PROBLEMS IF SYRIANS PRESS US FOR

ADDITIONAL WHEAT THIS FISCAL YEAR. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID HAVING TO INFORM SARG OF THIS FOR TIME BEING. BEST WOULD BE TO STRING THINGS OUT SO AS TO DELAY FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG ON ADDITIONAL PL-480 WHEAT UNTIL APRIL OR EVEN MAY AT WHICH TIME WE COULD SEEK SARG'S UNDERSTANDING OF POSTPONEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL WHEAT UNTIL SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. QUESTION IS WHETHER WE CAN IN

MEANTIME PROCEED TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN 10,000 TON RICE AGREEMENT WITHOUT CAUSING SYRIANS TO PRESS US ON WHEAT. DELAY UNTIL LATE APRIL OR MAY IN DISCUSSION RICE COULD MEAN IT ALSO WOULD SLIP TO FY 76.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON WHETHER ABOVE IS PRACTICAL, AND IF NOT YOUR RECOMMENDATION AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM WITH MINIMUM OF FRICTION IN OUR RELATIONS WITH SARG. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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